

APPENDIX E

WATERSHED DELINEATION

A watershed is an area drained by a specific stream or river. Watershed areas are not hard to delineate; a topographic map contains all the necessary information.

- A. Identify Major Watercourses (see Figure E-1)
 - 1. Locate outlet reference point – this point is frequently where one watercourse joins another.
 - 2. Highlight watercourses (streams, creeks and swales) – USGS maps designate these with a blue line.
- B. Identify Major Ridge Lines and Basins (see Figure E-2)
 - 1. Locate high points – USGS maps will sometimes give spot elevations on hill tops.
 - 2. Connect the high points for a preliminary view.
 - 3. Fine tune the boundary. Old roads frequently created or were located on ridge lines. Remember, water runs perpendicular to contour lines (down hill).
- C. Identify Minor Basins within the watershed (often necessary when computer modeling) (see Figure E-3)
 - 1. Identify smaller secondary streams and smaller ridge lines.
 - 2. Delineate these “watersheds-within-watersheds” as the major basin was identified. Some areas will not flow into a smaller or tributary watercourse; they will flow directly into the main watercourse.

APPENDIX E

IDENTIFY MAJOR RIDGE LINES AND BASINS

FIGURE E-2

FIGURE E-2

